

ADULT

Basic Life Support Guideline

NITROGLYCERIN

Reasonable certainty of On-Line Medical Direction required for use.

INDICATIONS:

- Patient complains of chest pain
- AND
- Patient has cardiac disease history
- AND
- The patient's physician has prescribed nitroglycerin (sublingual tablets or spray)
-
- AND
- The systolic blood pressure is greater than 100
- OR
- Nitro may be also be prescribed for relief of esophageal spasm, continue with guideline.

POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS:

- Headache
- Drop in blood pressure
- Changes in pulse rate as body compensates for the changes in blood vessel size

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- The patient has hypotension or a systolic blood pressure below 100.
- Do not use with infants or children.
- Altered mental status with acute neurological impairment (stroke), unconsciousness, or any head injury.
- The patient has already taken the maximum dose.
- The medication has expired.
- The medication name, expiration date, and prescribed dose cannot be determined. In this case, consult with On-Line Medical direction.
- The patient has recently taken Sildenafil Citrate (Viagra or similar products). Contact On-Line Medical Control.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Wear BSI gloves
- Nitro loses potency easily and should be stored in dark glass container and not exposed to heat

1. Assess the patient, treat ABC problems, obtain baseline vitals and consider transport plan based on general impression.
2. Administer oxygen based on adult oxygen administration guidelines.
3. Check to see if the patient has already taken any doses of Nitroglycerin.
4. Determine if the patient has already met the maximum prescribed dose prior to your arrival:

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If the maximum dose of Nitroglycerin has already been taken or dosage is unknown, discourage the patient from taking any more. Contact On-Line Medical Control for directions.

5. Inspect the prescribed Nitroglycerin and document:
Right(Correct) Patient- Product packaging may not have patient-specific label attached.
Right Medication and Form- Only Nitroglycerin sublingual tablets or spray allowed, check expiration date.
Right Route-Oral.
Right Dose-One tablet or one spray under tongue.
6. If blood pressure is greater than 100 systolic, remove oxygen mask and instruct patient to place one pill or spray one dose under tongue. This administration may be done by the EMS Provider. Remember to wear gloves!
7. Ask the patient to keep mouth closed without swallowing until medication is dissolved and absorbed.
8. Record time of administration, dose administered and patient response. (Effect on pain relief and any side effects such as headache, hypotension or pulse rate changes.)
9. Dose may be repeated in 3-5 minutes if no relief of symptoms occurs and BP remains above 100 systolic, up to a maximum of 3 doses. Contact On-Line Medical Control for permission to administer additional doses.
10. Transport promptly and continue to reassess patient.

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